

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 NIC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2226

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: ROUND-UP OF LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 1627

SUMMARY: PRO-INTERSINDICAL SLATE WINS CHEMICAL UNION
ELECTIONS. COMMUNISTS OVERCOME CHALLENGE IN LISBON METAL
WORKERS UNION. SOVIET LABOR COUNCIL MAKES FINANCIAL GRANT TO
INTERSINDICAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ELECTIONS IN THE CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION MARCH 23 WERE WON
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BY THE PRO-INTERSINDICAL LIST. THE DEFEATED INCUMBENT SLATE,

COMPOSED OF SOCIALISTS AND PEASANT-WORKER ALLIANCE, AN ANTI-PCP FAR-LEFT SPLINTER GROUP, REPRESENTED PRACTICALLY THE ONLY MAJOR REMAINING UNION WHOSE LEADERSHIP OPENLY OPPOSED INTERSINDICAL. PRELIMINARY RESULTS GIVE THE WINNING LIST A TOTAL OF 2503 VOTES IN COMPARISON TO 2310 FOR THE LOSERS. SMALL TURNOUT OF THE 28,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS REMARKABLE IN VIEW OF HEATED INTRA-UNION CAMPAIGN WHICH PRECEDED ELECTION. THE LISING SLATE EARLIER PROTESTED ACTIONS BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AS FAVORING THE PRO-INTERINDICAL LIST.

2. THE LISBON METAL WORKERS UNION HAS DEFEATED A FAR-LEFT CHALLENGE TO ITS COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LEADERSHIP. IN THE RESULTING LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE A PROVISIONAL DIRECTORATE WAS FORMED MARCH 22, REPLACING A SLATE ELECTED IN DECEMBER 1973. MOST OF PAST PCP LEADERSHIP WAS AGAIN APPOINTED TO THE PROVISIONAL DIRECTORATE, THE MAJOR OMISSIONS BEING THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNION, (WHO WAS ALSO THE ONLY SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBER), THE TREASURER, AND AN ADVISOR. THE LISBON METAL WORKERS CLAIM TO REPRESENT 64,000 WORKERS; THE ABOVE DECISION WAS APPROVED BY 1,000 WORKERS AT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. THE SECRETARIAT OF INTERSINDICAL HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF SOVIET LABOR UNIONS HAS MADE A SOLID-ARITY GRANT OF \$28,000 TO THE PORTUGUESE LABOR CONFEDERATION.

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE A CONTINUATION OF COMMUNIST ADVANCES IN PORTUGUESE LABOR AFFAIRS.

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